

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 are currently pending in the present patent application. In an Claims 7-21 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner pursuant to a restriction requirement and accordingly have been cancelled through the above claim amendments.

New drawing sheets including Figures 1 and 2 accompany this amendment as requested by the Examiner in the Office Action. The associated description for these figures is added through the above amendments. These figures introduce no new matter into the application and are fully supported by the original disclosure. The description in original paragraphs 4, 5, 57, 58 and 89, for example, supports these figures, which merely supplement this original description along with that of original claims 14-21, for example. The amendments to these paragraphs introduce no new matter into the application.

Claims 1-6 have been amended pursuant to the Examiner's objections and rejections under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. More specifically with regard to claims 1 and 4, the "for example" language has been eliminated and the terms p and k defined through the claim amendments to claim 4. The amendments to claim 4 eliminate any deficiencies under Section 112.

Claim 4 expressly recites a parity matrix including an identity matrix having a non-zero determinant. In this way, a number belonging to the matrix is not a linear combination of other numbers belonging to the same matrix. Moreover, as recited in amended claim 4, operating in a group (mod p), the parity bit number n - k is fixed and p is chosen so that:

$$2^{n-k} + 1 \leq p \leq 2^{n-k+1} - 1$$

In contrast, U.S. Patent No. 5,040,179 to Chen ("Chen") relates to BCH codes, i.e. to linear codes, which do not have the characteristics of the codes generate by the parity matrix expressly recited in claim 4. The combination of elements recited in claim 4 is accordingly allowable.

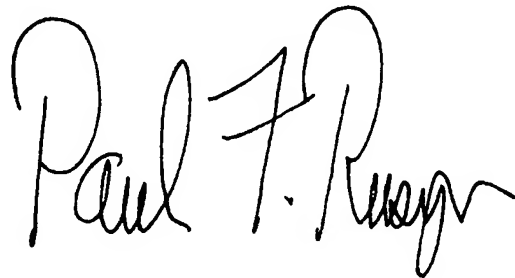
Dependent claims 1-3 and 5-6 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 4 and due to the additional limitations added by each of these claims.

Moreover, with regard to claim 3 it should be noted that according to Chen bits 0 and 1 are used as switches, as described in column 1, lines 14-29 and column 5, lines 17-27 in an indifferent manner and the Examiner has not shown the Chen discloses or suggests an error corrector code that distinguishes between errors of the 0 to 1 type versus the 1 to 0 type. Different results for the syndrome result with codes that make the distinction recited in claim 3. This claim is allowable for these additional reasons.

The present patent application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. **Should the Examiner consider any of the claims not in condition for allowance, the undersigned requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (425) 455-5575 to arrange for a telephone interview to discuss the outstanding issues.** If the need for any fee is found, for any reason or at any point during the prosecution of this application, kindly consider this a petition therefore and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account 07-1897.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul F. Rusyn". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and a prominent "F".

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